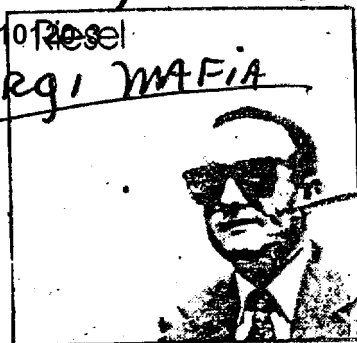


P. Riesel, Victor

Riesel

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Whose Mafia?

WASHINGTON — Point is — who in the Central Intelligence Agency "contracted out" to the Mafia for a "hit" on Fidel Castro when CIA had all the facilities, mighty lethal too, and political justification for attempting to destroy the Cuban Communist dictator?

It was in early 1961 when the hood officially described as "a fast rising syndicate killer" was contacted. He was one of the late Al Capone's "Young Bloods." And in effect, he was the boss of the Chicago underworld and has been thus described frequently.

His name, one of many aliases, is Sam "Mooney" Giancana. President of the U.S. was John Kennedy. The Attorney General who ran much of the White House was Bobby Kennedy.

Younger brother Kennedy, who today would be described as the Oval Office chief of staff, didn't hesitate to call over to the CIA on many matters.

Who then — and why — picked the Chicago crime boss, a cocky, brutal bantam, for the hit? We're told by former CIA director John McCone that there never was any real discussion of the matter. But how would he really know? He came in towards the end of 1961 and it took him months just to catch up on the secret combination to some inner office safes.

Why was Giancana chosen? The Allen Dulles CIA knew that in 1943 a Chicago draft board had classified "Mooney" 4-F because it thought him in a "constitutional psychopathic state."

He had been arrested 17 times by 1960. He had served time. He had helped run the nation's tightest, toughest Mafia crime family — and I'm a New Yorker, so that's saying much.

That Chicago syndicate ran local unions as though they were mom and pop stores. They used the labor outfits as enforcement arms.

They had their man on the Mafia's national commission. They ran so high in money as a result of the rackets in construction, in bars, taverns, restaurant night spots, even hospitals that Sam Giancana was able a decade ago and more to run around with \$6,000 and \$7,000 cash "bank rolls."

They shook down Hollywood for over a million. They ran the Bioff-Brown mob. They gave orders to unions in New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts.

They were cruel. More than a thousand men were executed in Chicago over the years — and these killings rarely were solved.

They were tied in with Florida's Santo Trafficante, reputed crime boss of much of the South and Caribbean. There are reports of links with Meyer Lansky, grandfather of the Godfathers.

Certainly they had gambling casino interests in Cuba. But why use a Chicago hood for the Castro hit? Why this particular one? If neither Jack nor Bob Kennedy knew what Allen Dulles' spooks were doing, does it mean that CIA directors have such deadly policymaking powers?

However, if the President and his brother knew it, does this mean that they were willing to order a "sit down" with the untouchables?

At this point there should be reported an incident during John Lindsay's mayoralty reign in New York. There was racial friction in a section of Brooklyn. Someone came up with the idea of ideas.

Why not get one of the so-called mobsters to step in and keep order? So somebody in some community relations commission contacted the Gallo faction of the so-called Colombo syndicate family. Al Gallo went into the area. A cop spotted him and told him to get the hell out. There was

enough trouble. Al Gallo said you got me wrong officer, I'm duly authorized. And he told him he was really a community relations official. And he was.

That was just about the time the authorities were attempting to put his late brother, Crazy Joey Gallo, and Colombo in prison. But it went all over the neighborhood that Al really was immune and powerful and had top city hall blessing. Colombo never did go to prison. He and Joey both were gunned down.

So now back to Sam Giancana — who has been given strange shadowy protective treatment ever since 1961. The CIA "contract" included a Southern Californian, John Roselli, for the final Cuban hit.

I've just returned from the San Diego-Hollywood-Los Angeles area. Word there is that Roselli, in the early 60s shortly after the contact was made, went about saying he's in. He had CIA

protection, he allegedly boasted.

That aura hovered over Giancana. He still has some very powerful friends high in Washington's political circles. And at 66 he's reputed to be Chicago's Mr. Big though his old friend Tony Accardo allegedly carries the title.

Get it clear. The 1961 CIA was the Allen Dulles-Kennedy CIA. It isn't William Colby's CIA of 1975. But Colby owes this nation the full story, right out of the old files. Sam Giancana is still healthy, cocky and apparently untouchable.

Maybe still has his old Mexican tan from the days he lived it up in the sun and reportedly ran the Chicago operation long distance. And many of the anti-organized crime crowd say he's more influential than ever. Is he still protected? And would the old CIA crowd have us believe that the Mafia and its cruelties are myths?